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(SEA SIGSUM 7-73)

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(b) (1)
(b) (3)-50 USC 403
(b) (3)-18 USC 798
(b) (3)-P.L. 86-36

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09 JANUARY 1973 2000Z
NSA/TA
NSA/HCF-TRAA

NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
SOUTHEAST ASIA SIGINT SUMMARY

This report summarizes developments noted throughout Southeast Asia available to NSA as of 1600Z, 9 January 1973. All information in this report is based entirely on SIGINT except where otherwise specifically indicated.

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SITUATION SUMMARY

Between 1144Z on 8 January and 1014Z on 9 January, North Vietnamese Air Surveillance facilities tracked a minimum of 155 hostile aircraft over North Vietnam, including 72 B-52's. On 4 January, the 293d Reconnaissance Regiment warned its subordinates of the possibility that even heavier B-52 strikes might be renewed, and speculated on possible tactics by U.S. aircraft.

China plans on shipping 72,000 tons of foodstuffs to North Vietnam this month.

An NVA reconnaissance element reported ARVN artillery attacks around Quang Tri City, including attacks on Trung Kien, Hill 42, Hill 29, Xuan An and Hill 80. A personality associated with the NVA 164th Artillery Regiment reported that the regiment headquarters' assembly area was at Hung Hoa. The 1st Battalion was south of the Nhung River, and the 11th Battalion was with regiment headquarters. An unidentified NVA element was directed to organize patrols at night, along the possible Thach Han River, to give warning if the "enemy" crossed. A review of SIGINT indicates that the Hq, VC 5th Division is in Dinh Tuong Province, and its forward element is in Svay Rieng Province, Cambodia. Also in Dinh Tuong Province, Group 45B associates discussed tactical activity and the use of SA-7 missiles. Seven 120-mm mortar rounds and six 82-mm mortar rounds were to be fired at Cong Hoa Post on the night of 4-5 January, and "K-25" was to use directional mines to destroy fences. Another unit reportedly fired on the Go Muong Bridge, scoring a direct hit on a bunker. ~~(ISHTAR)~~

In northern Laos, pro-Government forces have been shelling NVA forces threatening Bouam Long. An additional subordinate of the suspected Hq, MR 4, North Vietnam in Laos has been located in the general Thakhek area. ~~(SECRET SPOKE-ISHTAR)~~

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(b) (1)
(b) (3)-50 USC 403
(b) (3)-18 USC 798I. REFLECTIONS OF ALLIED OPERATIONSNORTH VIETNAMESE AIR/AIR DEFENSE DEVELOPMENTS

Between 1144Z on 8 January and 1014Z on 9 January, North Vietnamese Air Surveillance facilities tracked a minimum of 155 hostile aircraft, including 72 B-52's over North Vietnam. The aircraft were tracked in the areas of Dong Hoi, Vinh, Thanh Hoa and the DMZ. These aircraft were also tracked during their entries and exits of North Vietnamese airspace, over Laos, and the Gulf of Tonkin.

On 4 January, the 293d Reconnaissance Regiment (Phuc Yen Airfield) warned its subordinate radar companies of the possibility of renewed Allied bombing of northern North Vietnam. The controller of the 293d advised that if attacks were resumed, the "enemy" would employ even more B-52's, heavier jamming, feinting, attacks from different direction and different altitudes and attacks on many targets, apparently to limit the effectiveness of North Vietnamese air defense. The regiment also issued instructions for maintaining alert against renewed attacks.

(2/00/385-73 (VCK), 082117Z) ~~(SECRET SPOKE)~~II. SOUTH VIETNAMMILITARY SITUATION

1. RVN Military Region 1

Activity by NVA units in MR 1 on 7 and 8 January consisted of reports on Allied actions and training and preparations to prevent ARVN river crossings. The locations of elements of the NVA 164th Artillery Regiment were also revealed. In Thua Thien Province, the probable Hq, 812th Regiment, NVA 324B Division was located in the vicinity of its 24 December position in the provincial border area.

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An unidentified NVA reconnaissance element continued to report on 7 and 8 January on ARVN activity around Quang Tri City. Among the areas listed as being hit by artillery were: Trung Kien (YD 327553, 16-45N 107-11E), Hill 42 (unlocated), Hill 29 (YD 298463, 16-41N 107-09E), Xuan An (YD 323538, 16-45N 107-11E), the airfield (YD 327522, 16-44N 107-11E), and Hill 80 (unlocated). The element also reported that a helicopter had been shot down by NVA forces in the vicinity of the Ai Tu airfield (YD 285540, 16-46N 107-09E), but the disposition of the crew or occupants was not mentioned. According to collateral, a U.S. Army helicopter carrying six U.S. personnel was shot down in this area on 8 January. ~~(ISHTAR)~~

A personality associated with the Hq, NVA 164th Artillery Regiment reported on 9 January that the regimental headquarters' assembly area was located at Huong Hoa (possibly the former Huong Hoa refugee area, YD 090520, 16-44N 107-57E). The 1st Battalion was reported to be south of the Nhung River (crossing Route 1 at YD 3946, 16-41N 107-14E) and a company of the 11th Battalion was reportedly with the regimental headquarters.

An unidentified NVA element was instructed on 8 January to organize patrols at night along the possible Thach Han River so that warning could be given if the "enemy" crossed the river. The element was told that infantry units in the area had already been warned.

The possible Hq, NVA 675B Artillery Regiment was located on 9 January within 2000 meters of YD 063266 (16-30N 106-55E), near its 1 December location in southern Quang Tri Province.

West of Camp Evans, element of the 324B Division reported ARVN tactical and training activity in the lowlands. On 7 January, an element reported parachute and engineer mine training by ARVN forces in the vicinity of the camp. The primary NVA observation station in this area was reportedly located on Hill 330 (YD 511246, 16-29N 107-20E). ~~(ISHTAR)~~

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In other 324B Division activity, the probable Hq, 812th Regiment was located on 8 January within 250 meters of YD 294294 (16-32N 107-08E), in the vicinity of its 24 December position. This location negates the reported 15 km southwesterly move on 4 January. The division's 803d Regiment was located on 8 January some 18 km southwest of Camp Evans within 350 meters of YD 428162 (16-25N 107-15E), approximately 8 km west of its 25 December location.

(3/00/☐R319-72) ~~(SECRET SPOKE-ISHTAR)~~

2. RVN Military Region 2

The Hq, 631st Artillery Battalion, NVA B3 Front has moved from west-central Pleiku Province. While communicating with the front headquarters on 6 January, the battalion was located within 400 meters of YA 978475 (13-59N 107-45E), 32 km north of its 8 December 1972 location. ~~(SECRET SPOKE)~~

3. RVN Military Region 4

A review of SIGINT reveals that the Hq, VC 5th Division is actually operating in north-central Dinh Tuong Province, while its suspected forward element is operating in southwestern Svay Rieng Province, Cambodia. The Hq, VC 5th Division, which has been located in Dinh Tuong Province since late June, was formerly identified as the suspected Forward Element, Hq, VC 5th Division. The division headquarters currently maintains communications with its forward element; its Hq, VC 275th, VNC 6th and suspected Hq, NVA 174th Regiments; the My Tho Provincial Unit; and four division associates (E4346, E4922, E5345 and E6617). The division headquarters was last located on 8 January in north-central Dinh Tuong Province within 800 meters of XS 234570 (10-27N 106-07E).

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The Forward Element, VC 5th Division, formerly identified as the Hq, VC 5th Division, has been operating in southern Svay Rieng Province, Cambodia since 19 July. The forward element currently maintains communications with the Hq, NVA 174th and VNC 6th Regiments and one unidentified entity (M9461). The forward element located on 29 December in southwestern Svay Rieng Province by direction finding of questionable reliability.

In Dinh Tuong Province, Group 45B associates discussed past and future tactical activity and the use of SA-7 missiles. According to 4 January correspondence, a Group 45B associate reported that an unidentified Communist unit was maintaining an element of secrecy and was employing teams equipped with one SA-7 per team to be used against Allied aircraft. The associate also reported that the plan for the night of 4 January and the day of 5 January was to fire seven 120-mm mortar rounds and six 82-mm mortar rounds at the Cong Hoa Post (unlocated). In addition, "K25" (unidentified) was to use DH-10 directional mines to destroy fences while additional units were to strike along Highway 12.

~~(ISHTAR)~~

Later on the same day, a VC 5th Division associate reported that at 1900 (G) on "D-Day", an unidentified Communist unit had moved out and seized the battlefield. Another unidentified unit reportedly fired five 82-mm mortar rounds and 10 rounds of undetermined type into the Go Muong bridge (unlocated) and scored a direct hit on a bunker while "C21" encircled and fired on the Cong Quoc Post (unlocated). ~~(ISHTAR)~~

On 9 January, the suspected Hq, VC D-1 Regiment was located 10 km southwest of Can Tho in central Phong Dinh Province within 1000 meters of WR 770993 (09-56N 105-42E), 15 km east of its 14 December location. ~~(ISHTAR)~~

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The Hq, NVA 52d Regiment has been located in divergent areas since early January. On 4 January, the regimental headquarters was located in southern Kampot Province, Cambodia within 800 meters of VS 370723 (10-36N 104-25E), in the same area that it reportedly relocated to on 31 December. However, also on 4 January, the Headquarters was located in northern Kien Giang Province, South Vietnam, within 1500 meters of VS 608470 (10-22N 104-38E), 35 km southeast of its other 4 January location, and in the same area it occupied prior to 31 December. Finally on 8 January, the regimental headquarters was located in southern Takeo Province, Cambodia within 1300 meters of VS 730811 (10-41N 104-45E). Additional evidence will be needed to determine the current status of the 52d Regiment. ~~(SECRET SPOKE ISHTAR)~~

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III. CAMBODIA

MILITARY SITUATION

1. Special Military Region

Government reports of 6 to 8 January discussed enemy movements and intentions and FANK redeployment in the Special MR. A reinforcement battalion was requested at Preah Prasap (WU 0301, 11-46N 105-01E) after an enemy attack the night of 7 to 8 January. On 8 January Cambodian authorities reported that 40-50 enemy, disguised as FANK troops, were moving from an area 28-30 km south of Phnom Penh, intending to attack Monivong Bridge on the eastern outskirts of the capital. Other 8 January reports disclosed the presence of 600 KC near National Route 2 some 40 km south of Phnom Penh and the deployment of 1,000 enemy at Chroy Vong, VT 984528 (11-20N 104-58E) and Kompong Trea, VT 982517 (11-19N 104-58E), two villages 25 km south of the capital city. (2/00/351-73 (CEG), 081607Z; 367-73 (CEG), 082024Z; ?-73 (CEG), 08????Z; 2/G1/393-73 (CEY), 090119Z; 394-73 (CEY), 090147Z; 395-73 (CEM), 090148Z; 398-73 (CEY), 090221Z; 405-73 (CEY), 090244Z)
~~(SECRET SPOKE)~~

2. Military Region 1

In Kompong Cham Province on 6 January, 1,500 enemy, located 12 km southeast of Skoun (WU 0932, 12-03N 105-04E), reportedly intend to attack Skoun. On the same day, another 500 enemy were located 8 km south of Skoun. On 5 January, 300 enemy were located 22 km northwest of Skoun near the MR 1/MR 4 border and were reported moving into Kompong Thom Province. To the east, on 6 January, 300 KC were located 11 km southwest of Kompong Cham City on the west bank of the Mekong near the southern end of Koh Sotin Island. ~~(TSHTAR)~~

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In Svay Rieng Province on 7 January, 2 VC/NVA battalions were located 13 km northwest of Svay Rieng City near National Route 1.

(2/G1/366-73 (CEY), 081410Z; 367-73 (CEY), 081411Z; 381-73 (CEY), 081635Z; 389-73 (CEY), 090102Z; 410-73 (CEY), 090358Z)
~~(SECRET SPOKE-ISHTAR)~~

3. Military Region 2

According to a Cambodian Communist (KC) report of 7 January, the enemy offensive currently underway on Routes 2 and 3 will continue through the period 10 to 15 January. An earlier KC report revealed that the objective of the current offensive is to liberate Takeo City and to destroy Tram Khnar (VT 6948, 11-17N 104-42E). The report further disclosed that two bridges on Route 2 have been destroyed and that the Tram Khnar market has been in enemy hands since 1 January. In the Route 4 area, the KC objective is to destroy strategic villages north and south of the highway, particularly around Kompong Speu City. ~~(ISHTAR)~~

Recent Government reports continue to reflect a serious situation along Route 2 north of Takeo City. During the period of 7 to 8 January, the FANK positions at Thnal Totung (VT 7632, 11-08N 104-46E) and Svay Preg (VT 7423, 11-03N 104-45E) were each violently attacked twice. Also on 8 January, FANK elements at Rosay Village (VT 7619, 11-01N 104-46E), 4 km north of Takeo City, were attacked by an estimated 150 enemy and were forced to withdraw to the east after 3 hours of fighting. A Svay Prey clearing operation was launched on 8 January and reportedly was encountering stiff enemy resistance. The operation was to continue on 9 January. To the north, 200 to 300 VC were intending to attack the position at Srang (VT 5948, 11-17N 104-37E), 10 km east of Tram Khnar, on 8 January.

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In Kampot Province, aerial bombardment was requested against an enemy force of 500 which had been attacking FANK elements 12 km east of Kampot City since the morning of 8 January. Also in Kampot, a Cambodian National Navy vessel was requested for protection of the coastal town of Kep (VS 2558, 10-29N 104-19E) which has been threatened since 8 January.

(2/00/349-73 (CEG), 081503Z; 351-73 (CEG), 081607Z;
2/G1/373-73 (CEY), 081540Z; 374-73 (CEY), 081543Z; 400-73
(CEY), 090236Z; 403-73 (CEY), 090240Z; 416-73 (CEY), 090730Z)
~~(SECRET SPOKE-ISHTAR)~~

4. Military Region 3

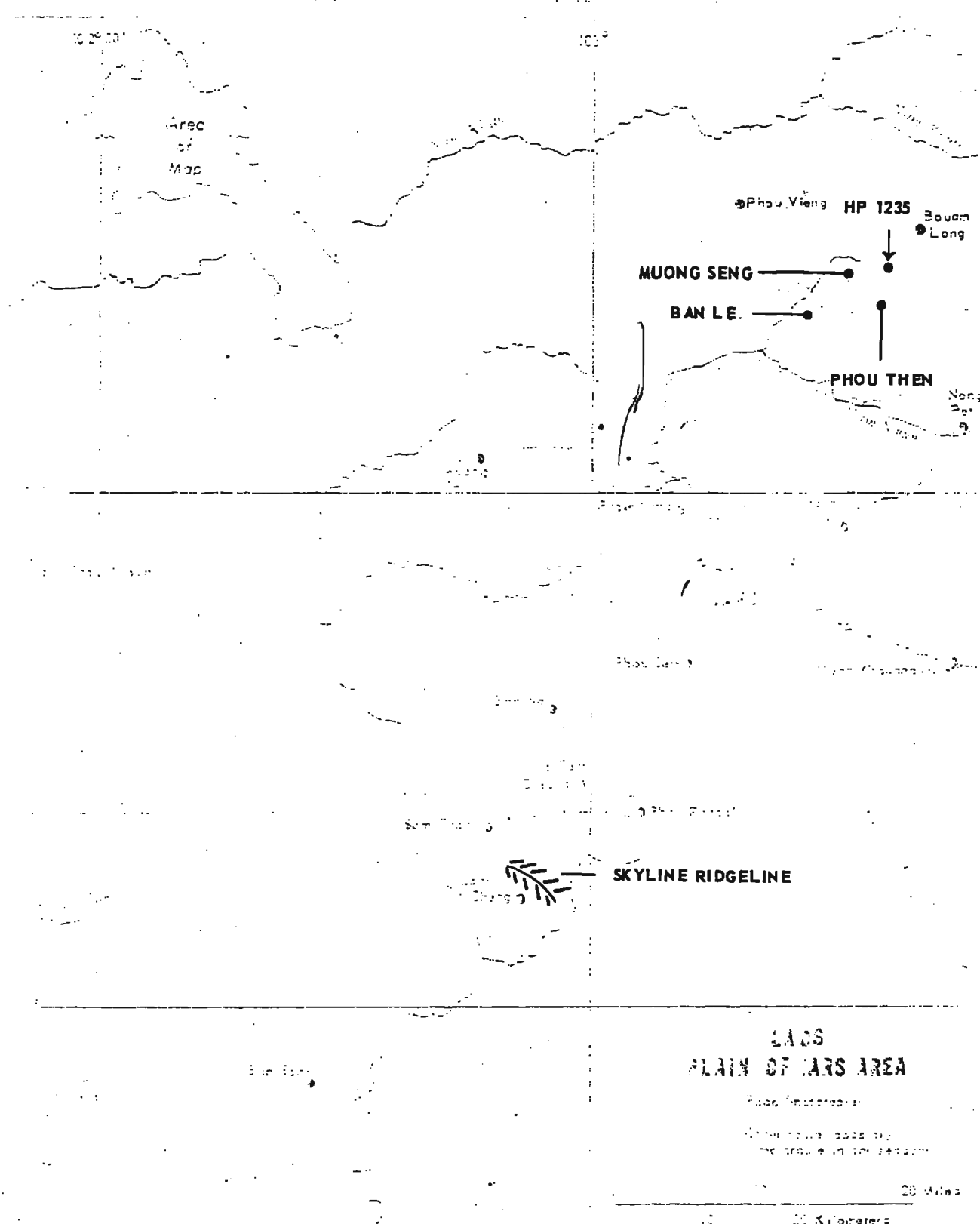
A Cambodian Government report of 4 January revealed that 900 enemy were progressing towards Route 5 and intended to attack Oudong City (VU 6714, 11-57N 104-41E). In a 6 January report, the KC disclosed that they intended to harass FANK positions on Route 5 between Kompong Chhnang and Oudong cities. In the same report, the KC stated that their secondary goal is to destroy the Romeas Post, 25 km southwest of Kompong Chhnang City. In addition, the KC reported that they had surrounded the Romeas Post on the morning of 6 January. In previous SIGINT, FANK reported that the post was encircled by the enemy.

Elsewhere in MR 3, FANK reported two new enemy clearing operations-one in northern Battambang Province and "Operation BOPEAR" in eastern Thmar Puok Province.

(3/00/534-73 ☐ 8 Jan 73; 2/00/351-73 (CEG), 081607Z;
2/G1/368-73 (CEY), 081412Z; 390-73 (CEY), 090104Z; 413-73
(CEY), 090530Z) ~~(SECRET SPOKE)~~

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5. Military Region 4

Cambodian authorities on 8 January requested bombardment of enemy concentrated to the south and southeast of Pongro (UA 350257, 13-47N 103-28E) in northwestern Siem Reap Province. On the same day, approximately 500 enemy were reported moving from the area of the concentrations toward Pongro, which is currently enemy-occupied. Also on 8 January, air cover was requested for Government elements engaged in clearing and destroying operations in the Srey Snam District. (2/G1/391-73 (CEY), 090115Z) ~~(SECRET SPOKE)~~

IV. LAOS

A. MILITARY SITUATION

1. Northern Laos

Pro-Government elements in the Bouam Long area have counterattacked NVA forces threatening the base. A 9 January exchange between the 3d Company, NVA 25th Engineer Battalion and battalion headquarters disclosed an RLA artillery attack on High Point 1235 (UG 3771, 19-38N 103-26E). According to the company, pro-Government forces shelled the highpoint from locations near Ban Le (UG 1479, 19-42N 103-13E). Later the same day, battalion headquarters informed its 3d Company that they must prepare for the responsibility of escorting NVA 130-mm artillery into Muong Seng (UG 1783, 19-44N 103-15E) on 16 January.

Meanwhile, an unidentified NVA element revealed on 6 January that unspecified pro-Government forces have requested increased air support for elements of RLA Mobile Group 21. Further, the element disclosed that B-52 and T-28

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aircraft saturation bombed the area near Phou Then (UG 2381, 19-43N 103-19E) and Nong Pet (UG 3263, 19-33N 103-24E), south of Bouam Long, and the Skyline Ridge area north of Long Cheng.

In the southern Plaine des Jarres, an unidentified associate (E6161) of the NVA 866th Independent Regiment, was located on 9 January at UG 040390 (19-20N 103-08E), 18 km east of its 29 October position.

Deuane Dissident Neutralist (DN) Hq reported on 8 January that the DN were "masters of the situation" in the Sala Phou Khoun area. The DN attacks on Muong Kassy, Vang Vieng and Xieng Ngeun (TG 0596, 19-45N 102-11E) reportedly caused the "enemy" to become "isolated in confusion." According to the DN, the "enemy" is trying to hold on to some points "to use as escape routes when we attack." If the DN are slow to move against these points, the "enemy" will have time to reorganize and launch counterattacks. The DN 48th Battalion was told that the road (Route 13) must be brought under DN control, and that they were to support the operations at Luang Prabang.

A Royal Laotian Army (RLA) "special" helicopter which left Long Chen on a liaison mission to Muong Phoune (TG 6013, 19-06N 102-43E) was hit by enemy fire and crashed at TG 4316 (19-07N 102-34E), 41 km west-northwest of Long Cheng. The pilot and two passengers were rescued.

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Vang Vieng was being surrounded by the enemy, according to a Laotian Neutralist report of 8 January. The report also revealed that Vang Vieng had suffered a three day power failure.

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Military Region (MR) 5 units were ordered to begin preparations on 8 January for operation "MAHARAJ/3" designed to retake Sala Phou Khoun.

Three enemy company-size units were operating 13 to 27 km northeast and east of Muong Kassy, according to RIA officials. One company-sized unit moved from 11 km northeast of Ban Done (SF 9868, 18-41N 102-08E) to 6 km northeast of Ban Done.

There were two clashes on 6 January in the Borikhane area. The pro-Government Pathet Lao (PL) Volunteer Companu (CV)/501 clashed with an unknown-sized enemy unit in the Than Dinh area near UF 5155 (18-35N 103-35E), 15 km west of Borikhane. There were no reported casualties. RIA CV558 engaged in a 3 hour battle with an estimated three enemy companies in the Phone Thone area near UF 9062 (18-39N 103-57E), 25 km northeast of Borikhane. Casualties were two RIA and two villagers wounded and one house destroyed by enemy B40 rocket fire.

(2/G1/419-73 (VCM), 090842Z; 2/☐/28-73 (VCJ), 070930Z;
2/☐/46-73 (VCM), 091043Z; 42-73 (VCM), 090355Z 2/G1/406-73
(LSY), 090317Z; 415-73 (LSY), 090710Z; 2/☐/LSM/T13-73,
090030Z/ 2X/☐/LSM/T14-73, 090554Z; 3/☐/LSM/T27-73, 080710Z)

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2. Southern Laos

Associates of the NVA 8th Battalion continued to report tactical activities in the Paksong area of Sedone Province. On 7 January the 8th Battalion informed the 9th Regiment that the battalion will carry out strikes against the "enemy" north of Phou Champi (XB 3379 15-11N 106-14E) and Phou Nongle (XB 3381 15-12N 106-14E). The 6th and 8th

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Companies, possibly of the 8th Battalion, will strike the "enemy" at KM 0 (unlocated) and south and east of Phou Thevada (XB 3678 15-11N 106-16E). Furthermore, a 12.7-mm artillery position is being set up at the base of Phou Thevada in order to fire at planes. ~~(ISHTAR)~~

The suspected Forward Element, Military Region 4, North Vietnam, in Laos was located on 8 January within 700 meters of WE 094159 (17-19N 105-05E), approximately 30 km southeast of Thakhek, and 11 km northeast of its 16 December location.

A subordinate (E6589) of the suspected Forward Element, MR 4, North Vietnam, in Laos was initially located on 8 January within 1300 meters of WE 224199 (17-20N 105-12E), 40 km east of Thakhek and in the vicinity of other subordinates of the forward element.

RLA authorities in Thakhek estimated on 6 January that there were still three enemy battalions deployed east along the roads between Thakhek and Mahasay (WE 2125 17-25N 105-12E). An unidentified NVA battalion reinforced by another enemy company was located on Route 12 about 26 km east of Thakhek. This battalion is supported by another company equipped with two armored cars and two 105-mm weapons located 6 km east of the battalion. An unidentified NVA battalion was located at the junction of Routes 120 and 135 about 34 km southeast of Thakhek with its subordinate companies deployed west along Route 135. The third enemy battalion, also unidentified was noted just northeast of the Routes 120-135 junction and its subordinate companies were deployed northeast along Route 120 toward Mahasay.

(2/00/VCM/R371-72, 222020Z Dec 72; 2//LSM/T26-73m 080620Z)
~~(SECRET SPOKE-ISHTAR)~~

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B. CHINESE COMMUNIST FORCES

1. Chinese Communist Engineer Unit Active in Northern Laos

An unidentified Chinese Communist engineer unit (MU1932) and two subordinates (MU1933 and MU2439) are located in the Nam Tha (QD 1951, 20-57N 101-25E)/Muong Sing (QD 2445, 21-11N 101-09E) area of northern Laos. The unit exhibits characteristics which suggest an association with the unidentified engineer regiment (MU1985) currently located in the Muong Sai (RC 1394, 20-42N 101-59E) area. Whether MU1932 is an element of the HQ of the unidentified engineer regiment or a battalion of that regiment cannot be determined. ~~(SECRET SPOKE)~~

2. 125th Infantry Regiment Staff Officer Returns to Muong Houn Area to Determine "Enemy" Situation

Probably as the result of increased activity by Laotian Rightists in northern Laos, a staff officer of the HQ, 125th Infantry Regiment has returned to the Muong Houn (QC 5630, 20-09N 101-27E) area to ascertain the "enemy" situation. This same officer was noted on 8 December being sent to the Muong Houn area as the leader of a 5-man reconnaissance team that was to familiarize itself with the "enemy" situation. The return of this officer to the Muong Houn area is probably the result of the recent increased concern which the CFL HQ and the HQ of both the 125th and 96th Infantry Regiments have expressed over increased ground activity in the Vieng Phu Kha (QC 1892, 20-42N 101-05E) area and air activity 40 km south of Nam Tha (QD 5119, 20-57N 101-25E). (2/00/372-73 ☐ LSM); 3/00/496-73, 071350Z Jan; 2/00/☐ LSM/R34-72, 142040Z Dec; and 2/00/☐ LSM/T362-72, 122046Z Dec) ~~(SECRET SPOKE ISHTAR)~~

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V. GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF REAR SERVICES ACTIVITY

GDRS SUMMARY

One new infiltration group, 4001, has been observed in the BINH TRAM (BT) 18 area, raising the monthly totals to 11 infiltration, one specially designated and three special-purpose groups. In other activity, the movement of tanks was reported in southern North Vietnam and in the BT 32 area of the Laos Panhandle.

For locations of GDRS facilities, see 2/00/VCJ/R47-72.

~~(SECRET SPOKE)~~

A. PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS

North Vietnam

The initial reference to infiltration Group 4001 and a further reference to infiltration Group 7125 in the BT 18 area of operations were noted in recent reports. On 6 January, possibly Commo-Liaison Station (T)-9 informed T-9B that Group 4001 with 553 personnel and Group "B" with 58 personnel were to be sent by foot to BT 25. Later, on 8 January an unidentified associate of BT 18 requested BT 25 to dispatch a vehicle to meet Group "YK1", consisting of 6 personnel, of 7125.

In other personnel activity an unidentified BT 18 associate informed T-9A on 4 January that three groups of civilian workers would be arriving that night. The first group, comprised of 82 personnel, is commanded by VU THI THUC and the second and third groups, comprised of 64 and 160 personnel, respectively, are both commanded by DOO VAN THANG. In addition to the arrival of these three groups, T-9A was informed that a

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group from the Officer Communications School of the High Command, consisting of eight personnel and commanded by DANG TRONG CAC, was en route to MR 559. This group, however, only had papers from the school and no travel orders.

(2/☐/155-73 (VCJ), 051522Z; 2/☐/184-73 (VCJ), 060510Z)

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~~(SECRET SPOKE)~~

B. TANK MOVEMENTS

1. North Vietnam

The southward movement of tanks through the southern portion of North Vietnam was noted on 7 January. On that day, Hq, BT 26 informed a subordinate that in order to be able to move the "tanks" across the river in one to two nights, the element was to coordinate with 27th Battalion (unidentified) for assistance. The number of tanks and the tank group designators were not revealed. ~~(SECRET SPOKE)~~

2. Laos

In related activity, five tank groups were reported to be in the BT 32 area. On 8 January, an element of BT 32 reported that tank Groups A23, A28B, A94, A96 and A98A were in its area and requested that they be allowed to stop over for two to three nights for rest and vehicle maintenance. The element requested that Group 473 be contacted for guidance on this problem. In addition, the element requested that they be given a plan for distributing gasoline and oil to the groups already there. The element stated that if the plan was not forthcoming the tank groups would not be able to continue to K1 (unlocated).

~~(SECRET SPOKE)~~

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C. GENERAL DEVELOPMENT

1. North Vietnam

A vehicle checkpoint in the BT 18 area of operations disclosed the number of vehicles which transited its area on 7 January.

On Route 15A	201 southbound	175 northbound
On Route 48	202 southbound	170 northbound

Additionally, there were 19 vehicles of Vehicle Unit 30 of Military Region 559 with Comrade SIX in charge.

~~(SECRET SPOKE)~~

2. Laos

On 6 January, Hq BINH TRAM 34 was located near XC 566605 (15-54N 106-27E). This is the initial location of this headquarters for 1973, and continues to locate it in its normal area of operations.

The alleged shootdown of an F4 aircraft on 8 January by the 17th Company of the probable 120th AAA Battalion, 593d AAA Regiment, presently operating in the BT 32 area, was disclosed in an 8 January report possibly from the Hq, 120th AAA Battalion. The report disclosed that an F4 was hit by four 23-mm AA guns, and burst into flames. According to speculation by the element, the aircraft went down approximately 12 to 15 kilometers south southeast of the battalion's area of responsibility and eight kilometers southwest of the pass at Ban Phalong (XD 0644, 16-41N 106-11E). It was further revealed that at the present time OV-10 aircraft were circling the area of the downed F4. No information was given concerning the status or location of pilots.

(2/☐/279-73 (VCJ), 080645) ~~(SECRET SPOKE)~~

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

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D. WEEKLY WRAP-UP OF PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS

North Vietnam/Laos

The following movements were reported in North Vietnam and Laos during the weeks of 2 to 7 January.

1. North Vietnam

A minimum of 1,390 personnel were noted moving south and a minimum of 3,772 personnel were noted moving north. Of this number 2,682 were transients, 940 were sick and wounded and 150 were cadre from the B5 Front.

2. Laos

A minimum of 365 people were noted moving southward and a minimum of 1,354 sick and wounded personnel were noted moving north.

3. A summary of the weeks groups activity follows:

Initially Observed

<u>Group</u>	<u>Nr. of Personnel/ Vehicles</u>	<u>Disposition</u>
BT 18:		
7167	-	BT 18 AO
7025	Combined	En route from T-9A to T-9B
7026	strength	En route from T-9A to T-9B

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<u>Initially Observed</u>	<u>Nr. of Personnel/ Vehicles</u>	<u>Disposition</u>
<u>Group</u>		
7027	of 145	En route from T-9A to T-9B
7028		En route from T-9A to T-9B
7029	-	Entered T-9B
7030	-	Entered T-9B
5030	99	-
-	742	-
2088	-	Possibly at T-9A
2089	152	At T-9
2091	167	At T-9
QL 576	45	At T-9
KB 809	13	Departing T-9B on 2 Jan
2	27	BT 18 AO

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Initially Observed

<u>Group</u>	<u>Nr. of Personnel/ Vehicles</u>	<u>Disposition</u>
BT 32:		
3062	16 Hong Ha vehicles w/ 12 37-mm artillery weapons	BT 32
5051 (seen as 551)	16 tracked vehicles w/ 12 large artillery weapons	BT 32
2093	13 tracked vehicles w/ trailers	BT 32
2094	17 Hong Ha vehicles w/ 12 122-mm artillery weapons	
5056A & 5056B	-	At D1 a mechanized unit
472 AO		
A301	-	Unspecified
A302	6	Going to A Luoi
257	9	Unspecified
Q 421 (probably QL 421)	3	Unspecified
Q 309 (probably QL 309)	4	Unspecified
A155	-	Unspecified

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Initially Observed

<u>Group</u>	<u>Nr. of Personnel/ Vehicles</u>	<u>Disposition</u>
424	3	Unspecified
A370	7	Unspecified
BT 34:		
2090	300	BT 34 AO
BT 35:		
A802	-	BT 35 AO

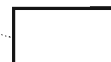
Previously Observed

BT 34:		
5040	-	In area
3052	6 vehicles - one at KM 95, 3 at KM 90 and 2 at KM 88	In area
5044	3 vehicles - one at KM 7, Route 22B and two at KM 113, Route 22B	In area
A 141	-	In area
1040	53	Leaving BT 34 AO
2077	4 stragglers	Leaving BT 34 AO

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PREVIOUSLY OBSERVED

<u>Group</u>	<u>Nr. of Personnel/ Vehicles</u>	<u>Disposition</u>
2074	3 stragglers	Leaving BT 34 AO
2076	16 stragglers	Leaving BT 34 AO
2063	4 stragglers	Leaving BT 34 AO
BT 35:		
2083 (seen as 2038)	42 people	In area
2073	2 people	In area
Group 471:		
2072	-	at 87(U/I)
2071	-	at 87(U/I)

Group 472:

<u>Group</u>	<u>Disposition</u>
3454 (poss 3054)	T-31
2086	T-31
3056	T-31
1043	T-31
3056	T-31

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<u>Group</u>	<u>Disposition</u>
1048	T-32
3052	T-32
2048 (poss 1048. or 3048)	T-35
3055	T-35
5050	T-36
2483 (poss 2083)	T-44
A 123	12 personnel led by NGUYEN TONG THIEN and VAN VAN DUC
102	13 personnel
AB 893	Eight personnel including one straggler

Following groups referred to as "Technical Weapons" Groups:

3052	3 vehicles located on Route QA5 (U.S. designated 916) 2 transferred to Group 471, 7 Hong Ha vehicles located at KM 85 on Route 128B (U.S. designated 917) 2 possible tracked vehicles and 2 possible artillery vehicles at KM 42, Route 36 (unlocated).
3053	6 type "72L" vehicles at unknown location 2 possible tracked vehicles and 2 possible artillery vehicles at KM 33, Route 36.
5044	16 vehicles at unknown location

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<u>Group</u>	<u>Disposition</u>
5046	2 tracked vehicles and 2 unidentified vehicles overturned at unspecified location
Z 180	1 vehicle at unspecified BT and 1 being repaired at KM 85, Route 128B
Z 188	13 possible tracked vehicles at 10 unidentified vehicles at KM 77, Route 24 (unlocated).

The following groups were referred as "Mechanized Units:"

102B	Unknown
A 120	The new "L1" area (unlocated)
QL 271	Has two disabled vehicles at X320 (repair station, BT 32 AO)

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VI. NORTH VIETNAM

A. ☐

VCSDP/Hanoi-COSVN Correspondence

Five messages/parts originated by the Vietnamese Communist Special Delegation in Paris (VCSDP) and passed to ☐

☐ Hanoi for relay to the Central Office for South Vietnam (COSVN) and possibly Region Committee 5 (RC-5) and Region Committee Tri-Thien-Hue (RC-TTH) were observed on 8 January. Similar activity was last reported on 3 January.

(3/00/234-73 ☐ ~~(SECRET SPOKE)~~

B. GROUND FORCES

Military Region Four

Two probable regiments of an unidentified probable NVA division (E2417) have been located, one, initially, in Nghe An Province, North Vietnam, and the other in northern Laos. One probable regiment (E6038) was initially located on 9 January north of Vinh in Nghe An Province within 30 nautical miles of WF 5994 (18-54N 105-33E). A second probable regiment (E5023) was located on 7 January in northern Laos within 1200 meters of UG 070325 (19-17N 103-09E), in the same area as its 26 December location. Both regiments communicate only with the probable division headquarters.

An unidentified NVA entity issued a directive from "Military Region 4 and the Command (not further identified)" on 8 January, reportedly due to the Allied bombing south of the 20th Parallel, and because some units had been struck when "the enemy" attacked vehicle parks. According to the directive, all bunkers were to be camouflaged; moving vehicles were to remain at a distance from other vehicles; and gasoline was to be stored in 5-liter containers which were to be dispersed and buried. Also, gasoline storage areas were to be a distance from the emplacements. Meanwhile, another unidentified NVA entity reported

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that Route 18, which runs east of Hanoi from Route 1A to the coast north of Hai Phong, had been damaged.

Unidentified elements on 7 January were encouraged to make additional efforts in order to shoot down the 1800th aircraft of the Military Region. A 9th Battalion (not further identified) was also criticized for suffering casualties of two dead and one wounded due to a loss of security while training.

(2/G1/420-73 (VCM), 090840Z; 2/00/250-73 (VCM), 052106Z;
3/00/534-73 ~~(SECRET SPOKE)~~

C. AIR/AIR DEFENSE FORCES

On 8 January, North Vietnamese Air Surveillance Facilities tracked the Giant Scale drone flown over North Vietnam in the 0200Z and 0400Z hours and the Buffalo Hunter flown in the Kep area in the 0300Z hour. On the 9th, North Vietnamese facilities tracked two Buffalo Hunter drones, one in the Dong Hoi area in the 0700Z hour and the second in the Vinh area in the 0800Z hour.

~~(SECRET SPOKE)~~

D. OTHER ACTIVITY

1. PRC Merchant Ship Departs Southern North Vietnamese Waters

The departure of one "friendly/foreign" ship from the Hon Ngu (WF 8279, 18-48N 105-47E) area of southern North Vietnam and the subsequent northeast transit of the ship through the Gulf of Tonkin were reflected in reports issued by North Vietnamese Naval Headquarters, Haiphong on 9 January. The ship, identified by collateral as the People's Republic of China (PRC) merchant ship HUNG CH'I 160 (CC, 3090GT, CG) was reported traveling from 18-52N 106-00E at 0209Z on 9 January to 20-29N 107-14E at 1115Z on the same date. Between 0510Z and 0650Z on 9 January, Naval Headquarters also issued reports reflecting the movements of two U.S. destroyers apparently shadowing the merchant ship as it transited the Gulf of Tonkin. The destroyers were reported operating approximately two to three nm from the HUNG CH'I 160.

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As of 9 January, two PRC merchant ships remain located in southern North Vietnamese waters: the HUNG CH'I 150 (CC, 3150GT, CG) at Hon Ngu and the HUNG CH'I 162 (CC, 3182GT, CG) in the vicinity of Hon La (XE 6283, 17-56N 106-32E).

(2/KO/37-73 (VCN), 091229Z; 36-73 (VCN), 091125Z; 35-73 (VCN), 090755Z; 34-73 (VCN), 090631Z; 33-73 (VCN), 090349Z; 3/00/534-73 ☐

~~(SECRET SPOKE)~~

2. North Vietnamese Transport and Trade

According to the latest schedules, China plans on shipping at least 72,000 tons of foodstuffs, including rice, soybeans, and maize, to North Vietnam this month. The Chinese also plan to deliver over 1000 tons of marine and animal products to North Vietnam during January, and have contracted to ship 155 vehicles, including at least five ambulances, to the North Vietnamese. /

The Soviet Union, meanwhile, is also continuing its aid to Hanoi. Latest shipments have consisted of foodstuffs and light machinery.

The status of international merchant ships in North Vietnamese ports remains unchanged.

(2/00/246-73; 257-73; X/00/141-73; 2/00/240-73) ~~(SECRET SPOKE ISHTAR)~~

3. Soviet AN-12 Flights to Hanoi

Soviet AN-12's (11118 and 11107) performed flights to Hanoi Gia Lam Airfield, the former on 8 January and the latter on the 9th. Both aircraft entered North Vietnam from Calcutta and departed via Vientiane. Cargo descriptions were not revealed for either flight. ~~(ISHTAR)~~

(2/RO/31-73 (RUVCT); 34-73 (RUVCT)) ~~(SECRET SPOKE ISHTAR)~~

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(b) (3) - 50 USC 403
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(b) (3) - 18 USC 798
(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

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VII.

A.

SUMMARY

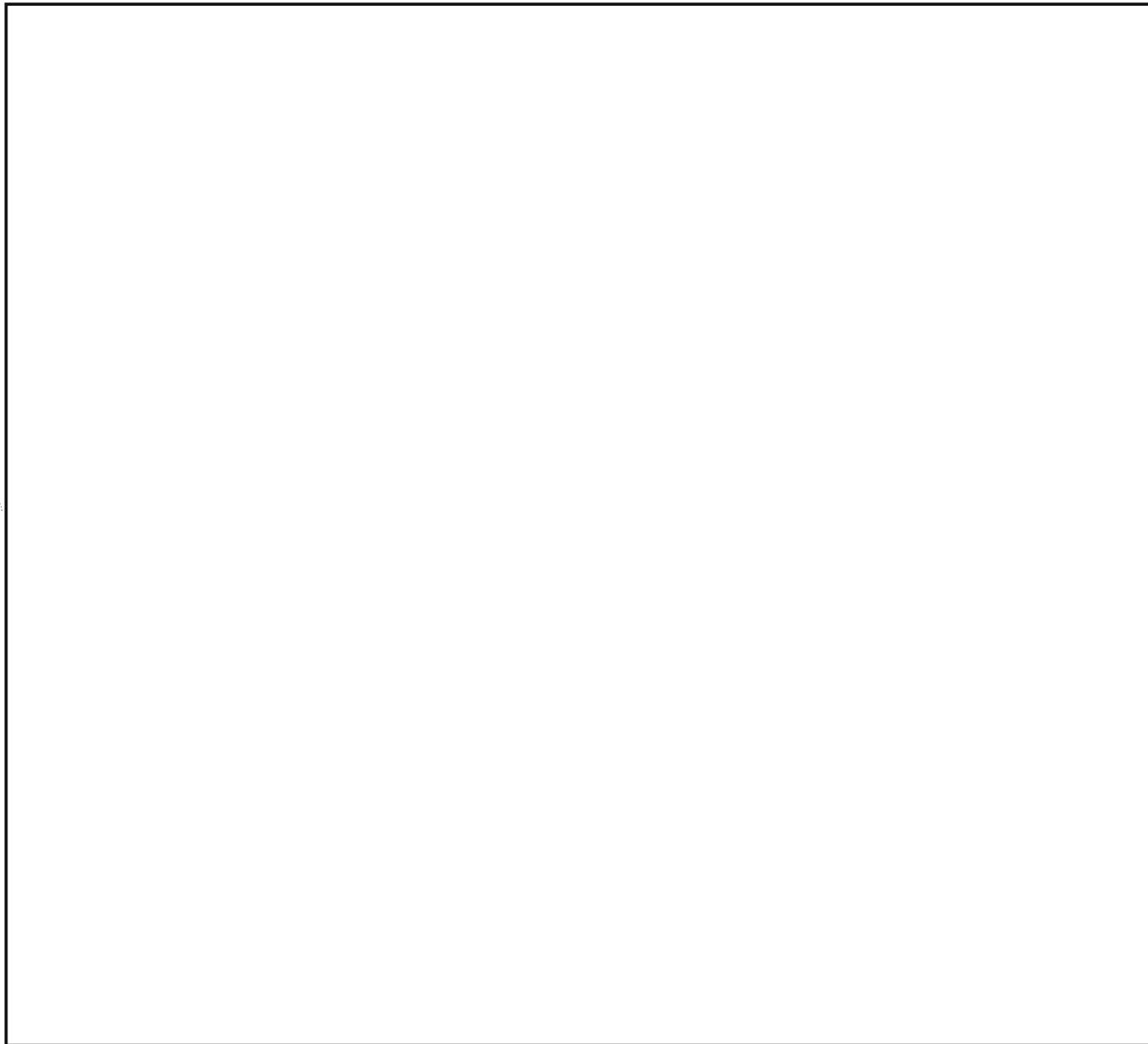
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B. ☐



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